



Nov. 19, 2010

This Week:

- Chetzemoka Inaugural Sailing
- Chetzemoka Service Update
- Kingston Community Meeting
- WSDOT Response and Action Plan to the PVA Expert Panel Report
- Commission Votes to Increase Ferry Fares

Chetzemoka Inaugural Sailing

I want to thank everyone who took part in making the inaugural sailing of the new ferry Chetzemoka a success on Sunday. There were hundreds of people involved, including the Governor, legislators, WSDOT/WSF staff, communities and customers. The festivities kicked off at the Coupeville ferry terminal with music provided by Navy Band Northwest and the Coupeville High School jazz band, followed by the Governor christening the Chetzemoka and speeches by dignitaries. The Chetzemoka made her inaugural voyage from Coupeville to Port Townsend and once in the dock, everyone was welcomed onboard for a tribal blessing, singing and speeches courtesy of the Jamestown S'Klallam, Port Gamble S'Klallam and Lower Elwha Klallam tribes. The Chetzemoka was then open for public viewing and made available to the community of Port Townsend for their family photo. Photos of the day's activities are available at www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157625267554653/

Chetzemoka Service Update

The Chetzemoka began service on Monday, Nov. 15. Due to severe weather and high winds this week, there were delays and cancelled sailing throughout the system, including four round trips on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route. The stormy conditions also led to leakage from some of the Chetzemoka's windows. This is a warranty item that we fully expect the builder to remedy.

Kingston Community Meeting

We had our fall community meeting in Kingston on Thursday night. I was accompanied by ferry system managers to discuss WSF efficiencies and reform, WSDOT's response and action plan to the PVA expert panel report, proposed options for service reductions and the upcoming legislative session. For details and a list of all community meetings, please visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/commuterupdates/pub_meetings.htm.

WSDOT Response and Action Plan to the PVA Expert Panel Report

On Nov. 16 WSF delivered to Gov. Gregoire the WSDOT Response and Action Plan to the Passenger Vessel Association's Expert Panel Report. In September, the Panel delivered three dozen recommendations to the Governor for improving WSF. While stating clearly that WSF is a well run industry leader, the Panel called out areas for improvement. Governor Gregoire instructed WSF to review the recommendations and develop an action plan outlining which recommendations would be implemented and what legislation would be required. For more information, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/accountability

Commission Votes to Increase Ferry Fares

WSF Planning Director Ray Deardorf and I testified before the Washington State Transportation Commission on Monday afternoon. Following our testimony, the Commission voted on fare increases for ferry customers to be implemented on Jan. 1, 2011. Details include:

- Increase fares on routes by 2.5 percent
- Raise San Juan Islands inter-island route fares by an additional 2 percent above the general fare increase to complete Tariff Route Equity implementation
- Eliminate San Juan Islands day-of-week pricing and the passenger peak surcharge (currently 20 percent)

Next Week:

- No weekly report due to Thanksgiving holiday. Next report on Dec. 3.

David Moseley's weekly reports are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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